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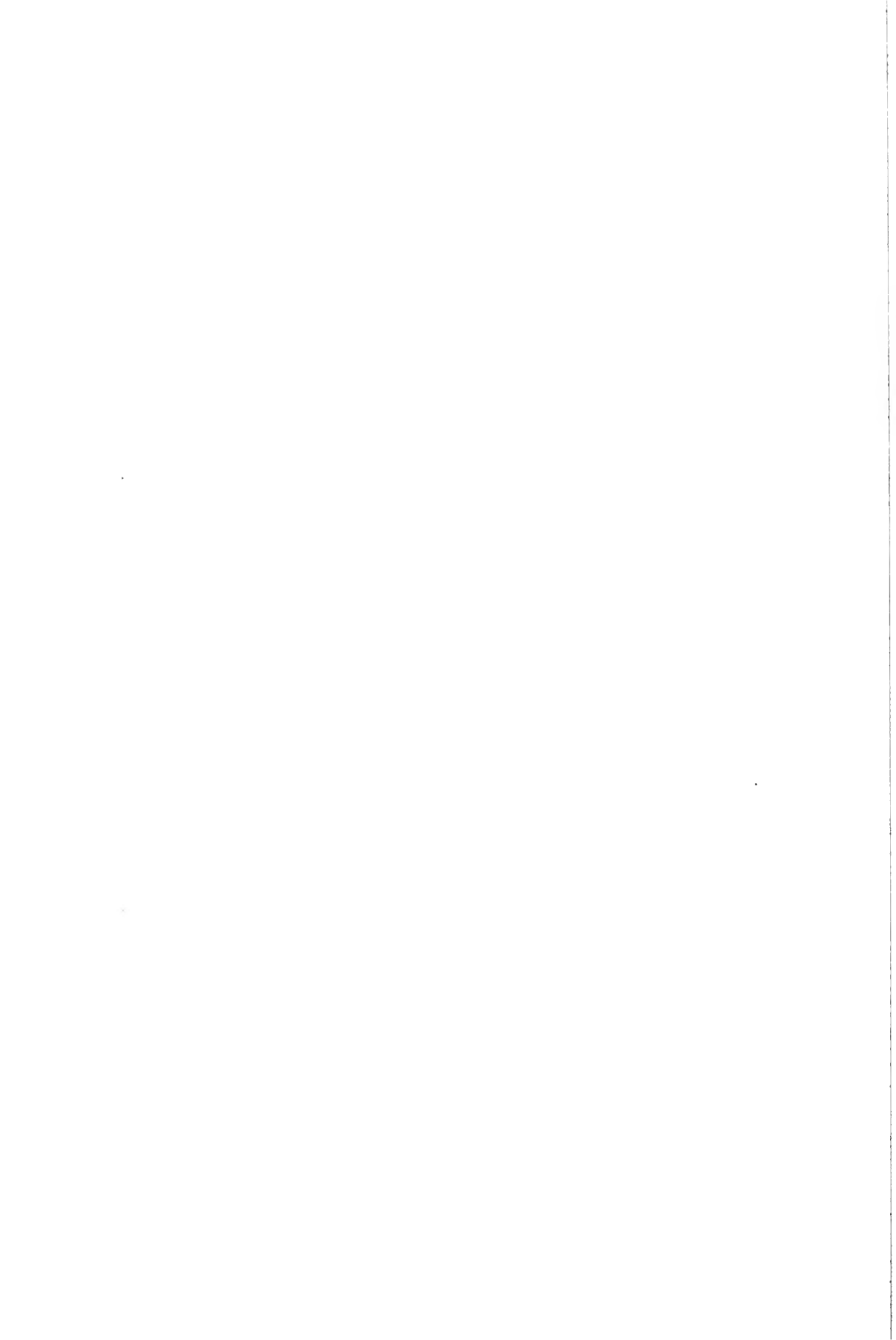


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59th Congress  
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MARSH

(Late a Representative from Illinois)

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES



Fifty-ninth Congress  
First and Second Sessions

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
April 15, 1906

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
February 9, 1907

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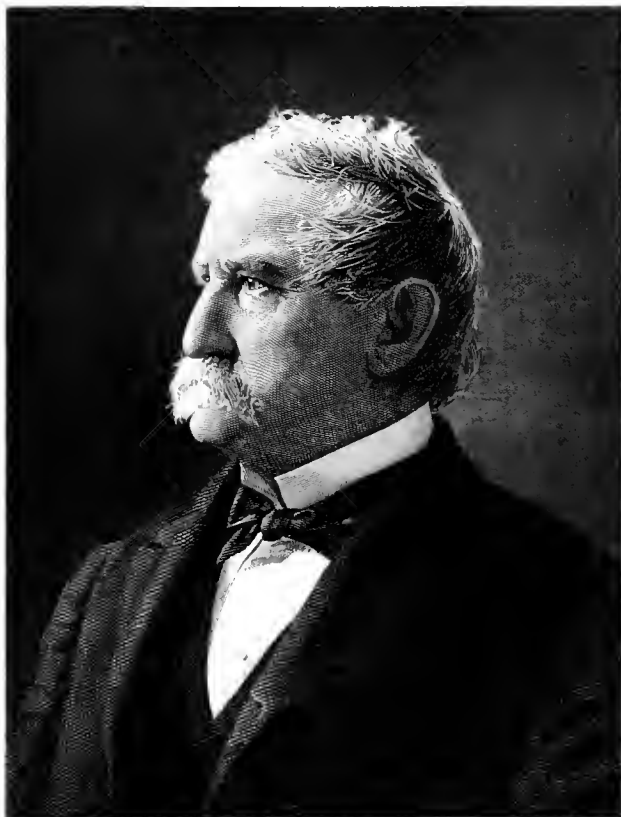
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## DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN F. MARSH.

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### PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

DECEMBER 4, 1905.

Mr. McKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my painful duty to announce the death of a late distinguished Member of this House. At a later date I shall ask the House to set aside a day on which suitable testimonials to his great work and eminent services may be heard. I desire to offer the following resolution, which I send to the Clerk's desk, and move its adoption.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House be directed to transmit this resolution to the Senate and a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. McKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of the respect in which we hold the memory of the deceased Member, BENJAMIN F. MARSH, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 37 minutes) the House adjourned until 12 o'clock noon to-morrow.

6    *Memorial Addresses: Benjamin Franklin Marsh*

MARCH 7, 1906.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of an order fixing a day for memorial addresses on the life, character, and services of the late Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, of Illinois.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Ordered*, That a session of the House be held on Sunday, April 15, 1906, and that the day be set apart for addresses on the life, character, and public services of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Illinois.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the order which the Clerk has just reported? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none. The question is on agreeing to the order.

The question was taken; and the order was agreed to.

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES.**

*SUNDAY, April 15, 1906*

The House was called to order at 12 o'clock noon by the Clerk, Hon. Alexander McDowell, who read the following communication from the Speaker:

APRIL 15, 1906.

I hereby designate Hon. J. Warren Keifer to act as Speaker pro tempore for this day.

J. G. CANNON.

Thereupon Mr. Keifer took the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for all the revelations Thou hast made of Thyself which enable us to interpret life, especially for that light which broke in splendor upon the world nineteen hundred years ago in the resurrection of Thy Son Jesus Christ, demonstrating the immortality of the soul and the unbroken continuity of life. Help us, we beseech Thee, so to live that each day shall be a preparation for the next, so that when we are called to the higher life we shall be prepared for whatever awaits us there.

We realize the fitness of this service here to-day in memory of one who served with distinction for many years upon the floor of this House. A scholar, a statesman, a brave and gallant soldier, clear in his conceptions, pure in his motives, true to his convictions, he served his people, his State, and nation with honor and integrity, and leaves behind him a

8     *Memorial Addresses: Benjamin Franklin Marsh*

record worthy of emulation, and may the memory of his faithful service quicken us to nobler life and activity. In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Journal of the proceedings of yesterday was read and approved.

The Speaker pro tempore. This day's proceedings have been set aside especially for memorial addresses in honor of the late BENJAMIN F. MARSH, a Representative in Congress and a Member-elect of the Fifty-ninth Congress.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions and move their adoption:

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That in pursuance of the special order heretofore adopted, the House now proceed to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Member of this House from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That as a special mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House at the conclusion of the exercises to-day shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were considered, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that leave be granted for members to print remarks relating to these exercises for ten days.

The Speaker pro tempore. Without objection, the request will be granted.

There was no objection.



ADDRESS OF MR. MCKINNEY, OF ILLINOIS.

MR. SPEAKER, it was my sad duty on the first day of this session to give formal notice of the death of the late BENJAMIN F. MARSH, for many years a distinguished Member of this House from Illinois, and to state that at another time I would ask that a day be set apart for the proper consideration of his life, character, and valuable public services.

On March 7, by special order, this day was selected for these memorial exercises, and we have assembled this afternoon to pay a last tribute of respect to one who bravely and honorably met his responsibilities and who left behind him the record of a noble and patriotic life.

I shall not undertake, in the brief time I shall occupy, an extended review of his career, and, indeed, that would seem unnecessary, as in a larger measure than comes to most men the record of his deeds is written in the history of his country.

I shall, however, refer to the more important events of his busy life, and to those circumstances which molded and directed his course and finally fitted him for a rare and splendid citizenship.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MARSH was born in Wythe Township, Hancock County, Ill., on November 19, 1835. His early years were passed upon a farm, where he acquired the rudiments of his education in the local schools. During a simple, frugal boyhood, amid wholesome surroundings, was laid the foundation of his strong and rugged character. In those formative years he acquired an interest in rural life and rural pursuits which never ceased, but rather strengthened with increasing years.

When the shadows had begun to lengthen, when burdens grew heavy and hard to bear, no days were so happy as those spent upon the farm where he was born; and the old homestead, so fruitful of cherished memories, remained his dearest possession until the final summons came.

When 14 years of age his father sent him to Jubilee College, located near Peoria, where for four years, under the wise direction of Bishop Chase, he diligently and faithfully pursued his studies. He labored earnestly to prepare himself for the obligations and responsibilities which even then he realized manhood would impose upon him.

His college course finished, he took up the study of law in the office of his brother, Judge J. W. Marsh, at Warsaw, being admitted to the bar in 1860, and afterwards associated with his brother in active practice.

During the same year, in flattering recognition of his talent, he was nominated as Republican candidate for State's attorney for the counties of Hancock and Adams, but, the district being largely Democratic, he failed of election.

And now while upon the very threshold of a cherished professional career, with the future seemingly assured, and success almost within his grasp, there came to him that summons which throughout his life proved irresistible and imperative—the call of duty. And when it came he did not deliberate, he did not hesitate nor count the cost. Danger threatened his country, brave men were needed, and personal interests were forgotten. At the first clash of arms he promptly tendered to the governor of Illinois a company of mounted men, but cavalry not being included in the first call for troops the offer was declined.

Being eager to go to the front, on May 24, 1861, he was mustered into service as second lieutenant of Company D, Six-

teenth Illinois Infantry, and the same day was made quartermaster of the regiment.

On July 4, 1861, while serving with his regiment in Missouri, a telegram came from the governor stating his former tender of mounted troops would now be accepted. He returned at once to Warsaw, recruited the company, and on August 12, 1861, again entered the service as captain of Company G, Second Illinois Cavalry. With this splendid regiment he was identified until the close of the war, performing brave and valuable service in every Southern State excepting Virginia and the two Carolinas.

On January 1, 1863, he was promoted to the rank of major. On May 4, 1864, he was made lieutenant-colonel, and soon after, and until hostilities ceased, was in command of the regiment.

He saw much hard service and participated in many battles. The records of the War Department show that he was wounded in action at Holly Springs, Miss., on December 20, 1862, and during the course of his campaigns he received four gunshot wounds. And yet, despite his wounds and the suffering and disability occasioned thereby, he remained at the front in active service until he was honorably discharged at San Antonio, Tex., on November 22, 1865.

Strong, self-reliant, purposeful, he was ever a brave and efficient soldier, and his war record stands as a proud testimonial to his valiant patriotism. He was a fighting soldier and preferred the field of battle to the mock heroics of dress parade. His old comrades throughout the country still delight to relate the many heroic deeds he performed. There was no more welcome guest at reunion and camp fire than Colonel MARSH, and no one was listened to more attentively. His stories of camp and field and weary march were graphic portrayals of army life as seen through a soldier's eyes. Throughout the war, appar-

ently unacquainted with fear, the only solicitude he expressed was for the comfort and welfare of those under his command. It is not surprising that such a leader should win the hearts of his comrades in arms, nor that he should gain and retain the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens throughout his entire life.

At the close of the war he returned to Warsaw and resumed the practice of law. He was thus engaged until his election from the Tenth district in 1876 to the Forty-fifth Congress. From that time on his life was again devoted to the service of his country. He was well equipped for public station, and after his election he entered upon the new field of effort with the same fearlessness, the same patriotic devotion that characterized him during the time of war. Neither his courage nor his sincerity was ever doubted. In Congress he stood for what he believed was right, without regard to personal consequences. In fact, he had risen above the thought of seeking personal success. He desired in the highest sense to be a public servant, and all his plans and purposes had in mind the welfare of the people. Careful, prudent, deliberative, in one direction alone he seemed to cast conservatism to the winds, and that was as the advocate, the champion of the interests of the old soldier.

After serving three terms in Congress he was defeated for reelection in 1882, on account of a lack of harmony among the party leaders of his district.

Philosophically accepting his defeat he returned to his home, where he engaged in an avocation he dearly loved, being that of general farming and stock raising.

But this restful period was of short duration. In 1888 he was a delegate to the Republican national convention.

The following year he was appointed by his lifelong friend, Governor Oglesby, railroad and warehouse commissioner of

Illinois, and served the State with signal ability in that important position for four years. In 1892 he reentered Congress from the Fifteenth Illinois district, being elected to the Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, and Fifty-sixth Congresses. He failed of election to the Fifty-seventh Congress in 1900, his district being doubtful, with a normal Democratic majority which even he could not always overcome. Under the reapportionment which followed in 1901 he was placed in the Fourteenth district, and from the new district was again elected by large majorities in 1902 and 1904 to the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses, the people thus clearly indicating that there had been no abatement of their confidence and respect. His physical health, however, was visibly failing, and the weight of years pressed heavily upon him. He suffered an attack of pneumonia during January, 1905, from which he never recovered. The end was near, and his death occurred on June 2, 1905, after a protracted illness following the sudden demise of his beloved wife on March 18 of the same year, and from which severe blow in his enfeebled condition he was unable to rally. He died as the soldier-statesman would prefer to die, with the harness on, with his face toward the front, and striving to the last to better the condition of his fellow-man.

I shall not attempt to consider his Congressional career. There are those present to-day who served with him in this House for many years and whose knowledge of his services here was derived from close personal association. A tribute of respect from these associates and colleagues will possess especial value, based as it will be upon the insight and knowledge of intimate relationship. I leave to these friends the story of his Congressional services.

My own acquaintance with Colonel MARSH began thirty years ago, when he first entered Congress. It was my good

fortune to meet him frequently thereafter during the remainder of his life. He always impressed me as being a man of purposes, of convictions. There was that about him which proclaimed the leader, not by assumption but by right. Stalwart, rugged, strong, he seemed naturally to assume the attitude and bearing of a soldier, and yet he had a kindly face and from his eyes there shone a look of genial interest. Earnest and outspoken, he was always fair-minded and sincere. He asked no advantage of any man nor would he accept one. He granted to all and demanded in return fair play. As he grew older he loved more and more to talk of his army life—of the days when he rode with the boys in blue. He loved to meet the veterans of whatever branch of the service. Each soldier was to him a kinsman, and one of the dearest words he knew was "Comrade." At all times and everywhere he was known and deserved to be known as the soldier's true and loyal friend.

I doubt if any man in public life during this generation had the interests of the old soldiers more closely at heart. During his many years of public life he secured relief through pensions and otherwise for an immense number of veterans and their families. He never wearied of serving them and always followed up their claims with faithful persistence.

And here I may say I have been impressed with the fact that although for years he suffered from wounds received in battle he seemingly forgot his own just right to recognition. The records of the Pension Office disclose no claim ever filed in his own behalf. And thus again was shown a striking characteristic of the man—thoughtfulness of others, indifference toward self. Like the sturdy oak, willing to give support and protection to all about him, he stood alone and would not ask for personal favors.

And thus he lived and wrought throughout his day. Stanchly he stood for the eternal right. Bravely he had taken up the burdens of life. Loyally and far he had borne them, and now at the end of the way, with his course completed, contentedly and without regret he yielded to others duties and responsibilities no longer his. At the biblical limit of time his life's history was ended. His work was finished; dear ones had gone before. He yearned to hear the last call, and when it sounded, respected by all who knew him, loved and honored by associates and friends, he calmly paid the final tribute of mortality. He left behind him a record of unfaltering devotion to country, home, and friends that was untarnished, unsullied, and that should not perish from the earth.

## ADDRESS OF MR. GRAFF, OF ILLINOIS.

MR. SPEAKER: We are here this afternoon to pay a tribute to a man who was a very marked type of a class of men almost entirely passed away. He had lived the allotted period of seventy years, but the number of times he had seen the hour-glass turn is of little importance as compared with the purposes to which his life was devoted. His was a career filled with stirring and interesting events and continued activities, mental and physical, to its close. He belonged to the beginnings of the settlement in the State of Illinois, one of those States which were settled without the medium of the railroad, when the only means of transportation were the highways that the rivers furnished and the scattered trails traversed by the adventurous settler in the prairie schooner. Born amidst this pioneer life in 1835, he witnessed the incoming of the immigrants from the South and from the Southwest, and from the East, from the New England States, each group contributing its peculiar political and religious ideas, and forming factors of the great discussion upon slavery, of which Illinois was so interesting and important a center.

He saw the settlers leave the richer prairie lands to the undisputed possession of the wild flowers and build their first homes in the less fertile woodlands along some stream for better protection from the winds and weather, and form material for their rude cabins and furniture.

The citizens of that early day were necessarily isolated. It gave to them opportunity for reflection that a denser population would not have afforded. It developed philosophers and independent thinkers. Every man is largely created by his



environment. The philosophy and rugged honesty of pioneer life were woven into the character of Lincoln and helped to create him even as it entered into the brave soldier and statesman whom to-day we remember, Col. BENJAMIN F. MARSH.

The open-air life and the very hardships of that time contributed to that splendid physique and erect, fearless, forceful bearing and commanding figure which were his.

He continued to be fond of outdoor life. He was fond of outdoor sports and physical exercise to the very last. He had some pride in his hardy young manhood and told me of an incident which occurred at a little Episcopalian college at Jubilee, Peoria County, Ill., when he attended there as a student. In midwinter his college mates dared him to plunge into a little lake and swim across. Nothing daunted, he plunged in and accomplished the feat, suffering no perceptible consequences of his rash act. On account of the lack of roads in the early day horseback riding was universal. He delighted in it. Little did he think that one day this accomplishment would serve him well as the dashing, brave commander of a Federal cavalry regiment, sweeping over the entire area of the theater of war save three of the Southern States.

In his home county at Nauvoo, Ill., as a young man he witnessed the strangest political and sectarian development which perhaps ever occurred in this country. It was so decidedly at war with our institutions and our inherited religious faiths. It was within a few miles of his home that occurred the rise and fall of the Joseph Smith settlement. He witnessed the equally strange Mormon exodus resulting in the establishment of another religious oligarchy far to the westward, which lived and reigned powerful, yet always in defiance to our laws and traditions, for a half century, not until now giving any real signs of submission. During the lifetime of BENJAMIN F.

MARSH over half the States of the Union were admitted. He passed through a wondrous period of political and material development. He lived in the day when honesty was not enforced through fear of the law, but by virtue of the strength of public opinion. He lived in the time when personal courage was a necessity and when it was estimated as one of the highest virtues. He saw principles of government worked out and solved by the strong right arm and wrought only through human blood. He lived in a time when there was necessity for strenuous physical exertion for battling with the elements, and that strong, rough life developed rugged virtues peculiar to that day and age, and his viewpoint of public questions was necessarily influenced by the manner of his development. There was developed in the pioneer a type of character peculiar to his own locality. It gave him a touch of individualism which can not be found in the later day, when men's environment are largely alike and when we come in contact with the influence and ideas of all parts of the United States. Thus bred, he retained a picturesqueness that suggested the old days in his larger career. I was privileged to enjoy the favor of his intimate friendship. I know that he would be proud to give large credit to the manhood and womanhood of early Illinois for whatever he accomplished in the greater days of his life.

To him the civil war, in which he engaged from 1861 to 1865, was a serious and a holy contest for human liberty and for the preservation of the nation. He never alluded to its experiences flippantly. Its issues remained to him solemn ones to his death.

His career as a soldier remained, while other honors came to him, still the most precious. Leaving his law books, fresh from his admission to the bar, he recruited a cavalry company, which was not accepted. He was not to be deterred, however,

from entering immediately into the conflict, and he enlisted as a private soldier, serving a short time until he was summoned back to the State and commissioned as captain of Company G, Second Regiment of Illinois Cavalry. Afterwards he was promoted to major, and finally as lieutenant-colonel of the same regiment, which he commanded until his honorable discharge from the service at San Antonio, Tex., November 24, 1865.

The Government records, which I have taken pains to examine, contain many references to Captain, Major, and Colonel MARSH, and all furnish a story of faithfulness, bravery, and efficiency. He believed most thoroughly in the volunteer soldier as the means for furnishing the body of the future great army in times of war for the protection of the nation. He therefore took a great interest, as chairman of the Committee on Militia of the House of Representatives, in laws for increasing the efficiency of the militia in the States.

His army experience made him a valuable and able member of the Committee on Military Affairs during the period in the war with Spain. His later service in the House was on the great Committee on Appropriations, placed there by the Speaker of the House, his long-time and intimate friend and colleague.

Sixteen years of total legislative service he gave to his country as faithfully and efficiently as he did formerly in the ranks of war.

The strongest passion of his heart, I verily believe, was his love of country. He gloried in its power and influence, in its extending strength and participation in international affairs. No doubt fretted his soul in view of the unfolding new problems which confronted the nation. He looked upon the flag as the old Roman looked upon his eagles. He was proud of the victories of our arms on land and the triumph of our Navy upon the seas. With the sinking of the *Main* this old war-

rior clamored restlessly for war, and at its close he faced just as confidently its consequent problems. He considered that the resulting acquisition of the Philippines would give added opportunities to the larger Republic in the field of commerce as well as in the dissemination of our political principles throughout the world. He believed in expansion. He believed in the constant trend of the past twenty-five years toward a larger national grasp of the affairs of the people by the Federal branch of the Government. He was a nationalist. He believed there were no dangers in the tendency of the present times, but was assured that that tendency promised our ability to fulfill our high duty and destiny as one of the great nations of the earth.

He loved his party and was loyal to its principles in the same way that he loved and had confidence in the possibilities and powers of his nation. He believed that his party flag was very near to the national one. He believed that the success of the party to which he belonged was a prime necessity for this nation working out its legitimate future. There never came to him any fine distinctions and questionings whether he should on some particular occasion follow his party flag.

He was always in the ranks, a faithful soldier, obeying the political command of his leaders as he followed his military commander on the field of battle. Most of us living to-day learn the history of this Republic from the cold and passionless page. He learned the history of almost three-quarters of a century of time and events in the panorama of the performance of the acts of living, breathing men which led to a constitutional evolution of the fundamental principles of our Government long before it was ratified in the regular way by the votes of the States. Therefore he viewed the problems which came to him during his service in Congress from a different standpoint than do the men who view them from the

standpoint of theory. His soul never quailed, therefore, in view of the larger field of action of the Republic. He had seen graver problems triumphantly solved. He believed that we were destined to the same unbroken successes which had been our experience from the time that the constitutional foundation of our Government was first laid, with Washington as our first President.

As I stood at the grave a few months ago, when his children cast in flowers upon his lowered body, amidst the silent homage of his comrades and neighbors, there must have come to those children and the assembled friends the thought which came to me and comforted me. It was that this was a life well rounded and complete, which had fully justified its own existence from a human standpoint. How full a fruition did he see, before he died, of all his hopes for which he had fought, and worked, and striven. So I say, peace to the ashes of this old Roman. All honor to the old fighter on the field of battle as well as in the forum of political discussion. There comes to us profit from a study of his life, from a reflection upon his devoted patriotism, his faithfulness to public duty, and his high estimate of physical bravery as a virtue as well as moral courage.

## ADDRESS OF MR. GROSVENOR, OF OHIO.

MR. SPEAKER: It was stated to me only last evening that I would be expected, if I saw fit to do so, to make a few comments upon the character and career of our dead Congressman from the standpoint of my knowledge of him. I shall not attempt to describe his career outside of Congress.

The able presentation of the facts connected therewith by his distinguished successor leaves it unnecessary for me, even if I thought it wise, to do so. We only see one side of a Congressman's character here. Those of his colleagues from Illinois can very much better speak of his career in civil life than we can, and they have a much wider and more detailed view of his career in civil life than we can have. Now, I imagine that if some people had met Colonel MARSH sometimes on the floor of this House and listened to him for half an hour, they would not have gone away impressed with the genial, kind, and benevolent characteristics which his colleagues know he possessed. The gentleman who has preceded me spoke of the old fighter. Well, he was a fighter in this sense: He had a great deal of confidence in several things, and when he had his mind thoroughly made up, I think he never yielded his opinion, and he fought for it in the sense he stood for it, believed in it, and never compromised.

Now, I think one of his strongest characteristics, Mr. Speaker, was this: He believed in doing the right thing as a Member of Congress regardless of anybody's opinion outside of Congress. He had an element that makes a man strong in the country. He had an element in his character the lack of which will destroy any man in Congress. The man who comes

to Congress to vote as somebody out in his district wants him to vote might just as well go home the day after he gets here and save his extraordinary expense of living in Washington, and get out as soon as the two years roll around; because the man who does that will be dodging, dodging, dodging all the time, and the men who come to something here never dodge. MARSH did come to something here, and MARSH never dodged. He said one day, when some one here on the floor suggested to him that some element in his district would oppose something that he was in favor of, that he was a school-teacher as well as a Congressman, and he would try to teach those people that he was right, but he would not do it by dodging, by shrinking from the discharge of his duties. He was a man who studied carefully the questions involved here. Sometimes long debate would ensue, in which he took no part, but always, if you spoke to him about it, if you discussed the subject with him, you found he understood it. He was a man who kept in touch with discussions and kept in touch with questions and always acted intelligently.

His career as a soldier was a career that he might well be proud of, yet I never heard him boast of it. I never knew him to assert or assume any position upon any question that came up here that he did not assign as well to others. He was modest in asserting his own knowledge of military affairs, and he was modest in asserting the claims that he put forward to his comrades. He had the characteristic of a man who believed he was right, and stuck to it. He was a Republican. He believed strongly in the Republican party and he believed in party organization. He believed what I believe, that we live in a country governed by political parties, and if he ever scorned anything with the bitterness of which he was capable, one thing above another, it was a man or organization which

undertook to reform the world and the country outside of the reformation that could be worked out through some sort of party organization. I heard him say one day that some reform movement that started somewhere put him in mind of the sudden exhibition of growth in a tender plant. I do not remember the plant that he indicated as his illustration, but he said the first frost would kill it. He believed just as honestly as he believed in his existence that if any other party than the Republican party got into power in the country it would be injurious to it, and therefore he felt it his duty to stand by the organization of his party; but no man ever heard him hesitate to speak boldly and strongly in favor of what he believed to be the duty of his party, and having done all he could to bring his party into line he then decided that its action was better action than he could probably find in the other party, and so he was a Republican, a Republican partisan, and he was one man who came to something in the Republican party.

No halfway man was he, no compromiser; and yet I believe he had as just an appreciation of any man's opinion as anybody else had, but, having made up his mind the other man was wrong, he never compromised with him. He belonged to a type of men who came to us from those Western States, who grow up there among the pioneers of the great States of which he was so proud, a State that has honored itself by sending to Congress the great men that have come—the Trumbulls, the Douglasses, and the men of that early period, and then the present worthy representatives in the Senate and in the Government. He grew up in the West. I do not know that it is especially important that he grew in the West, except that we know very well men take character from surroundings, from environment, and that environment goes down into the very ramifications of life in all its forms and surroundings.



The great prairies of the West, the mighty rivers, the great enterprises, the population, have always had their effect upon the growing generation of men, and Colonel MARSH came here in the fullness of his great power as a representative man of the elements of which he has grown up in the midst.

I knew nothing of his army career and shall have nothing to say about it. It is a great thing for him and for his descendants, if he has them, that he should have such a record as this. The country will never fail to remember a man who suffered and stood firm and carried out his principles afterwards as Colonel MARSH did. No sickly sentimentalism drove him anywhere. He went in obedience to the stern voice of duty. The House lost a strong Member, the State of Illinois a worthy son, and the Congress of the United States was weaker the day that MARSH died.

So we come to honor him. We meet to express our loyal appreciation of his high character. We meet to pledge ourselves to renewed activity along the lines of patriotic action which he traveled. We come to leave the impress of our opinion and our judgment upon the written page, so that the young men who follow us may read and understand how much we value the stern and stolid characteristics of Colonel MARSH. His career was worthy of emulation, his record the record of a true American. The memory of him will be talismanic in the history of the American Congress. May his colleagues, who have lost a worthy Member of a great delegation, copy his virtues and revere his memory.

ADDRESS OF MR. KEIFER, OF OHIO.

MR. SPEAKER: BENJAMIN F. MARSH, of Warsaw, Hancock County, State of Illinois, was not only my comrade in war but my personal friend. We entered this House of Congress (the Forty-fifth) together almost thirty years ago. This is my brief and humble tribute to his memory.

Besides being the possessor of a good scholastic education, he had studied and practiced law and was otherwise well equipped for the performance of the important duties of a national Representative, and this his long and faithful services here abundantly proved. He also belonged to the farmer class and knew their interests well.

He served in the Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh (1877-1883), Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth (1893-1901), and Fifty-eighth (1903-1905) Congresses, and was elected to this Congress in 1904, but died June 2, 1905, before he could take his seat. His total actual service in this House was sixteen years, covering a memorable period in the history of his country, and during this period he actively participated in legislation, especially such as related to the Army.

Though always a Republican, he was not a partisan in any offensive sense, his purpose always being to promote his country's best interests. His service here covered the period of the war with Spain (1898), and he heartily supported the policy of driving Spain from the Antilles and from the continent of America because of her cruelty to her Cuban subjects, a singularly new policy in the history of the world. No war was ever before declared or brought about between so-called "civilized" nations purely on humanitarian grounds; that is, by one nation

insisting on another surrendering its sovereignty over a part of its own country and the inhabitants thereof, its citizens and subjects, purely because of the nation's injustice, oppression, and cruelty to them. Indeed, it is the only instance where one nation declared a portion of another free. So the joint resolutions of Congress of April 8, 1898, declaring "that the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent," and demanding of Spain that it "at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters" was the first and only such declaration directed against another nation ever made in the history of the world. The year 1898 marks a new era in civilization, and the Spanish war stands as the first and only one brought on by the action of one independent nation toward another between which no international dispute or substantial cause for difference had arisen. BENJAMIN F. MARSH by voice and vote upheld this new national departure.

His long and distinguished services in the civil war—1861–1865—also materially aided in training him for courageous and efficient services in Congress. He enlisted as a private soldier in the first days of the war and at once saw active service. A few weeks later he recruited a company of cavalry and was commissioned its captain, and through conspicuous field service and for skill and bravery in battle he was promoted until he reached the colonelcy of his regiment (Second Illinois Cavalry), which rank he held until after the close of the war (January, 1866). He campaigned and fought in all the States where the war raged save in Virginia and the Carolinas. He was distinguished throughout his army life for bravery, military skill, and good judgment. He fought in some of the great battles of the war and in many minor engagements and

affairs, and he received four gunshot wounds more or less severe. He shed his blood for cause and country. Though his rank was not high or his command large, his achievements were always great and his honor unsullied. He, though less than 30 years of age when the war was over, proved himself equal to and worthy and capable of high command. If his name and fame were not heralded as far as that of other officers holding more important commands, justice awarded to him equal honors with them. He earned his promotions on the battlefield. Without the matchless valor of such men as Colonel MARSH immortal military fame would not have come to the great commanders in that war.

His whole life was peculiarly unselfish. He was not without ambition in war or peace, but his ambition was to do his duty in all relations of life. He had no vain professions or pretenses. He was absolutely honest and was always plain spoken. He did not pretend to oratory here or elsewhere; he ripened his judgment by investigation and thought. He was not arbitrary in his opinions, but he was not moved to surrender a judgment once deliberately formed save for the most convincing reasons. He had in his private and public career the courage of his convictions. His plain and direct speech made his whole life an open book.

He resided, child, boy, and man, in the county (Hancock, Ill.) of his birth seventy years. He was born on the frontier of civilization and among a sturdy, hardy people who took life seriously and who knew what liberty in our Republic cost and meant. They believed in peace, but did not neglect to assert the individual sovereign rights of man, and they believed in the equality of man. A test of that equality is that each man should fearlessly assert and defend all his own individual rights and concede the same rights to each of his fellow-men.

MR. MARSH's constituents knew him, and proved their confidence and faith in him by electing him to this House several times when his party (Republican) was not in the majority. His life and character might well be emulated, and should be pointed to as furnishing the best example of the duties of citizenship well performed and of a life well spent. In the years of his life he saw slavery abolished in his country and, as a consequence, largely throughout the world; he saw the Union of the States recemented more firmly than ever before; he witnessed his country grow in population from about 13,000,000 to 85,000,000; he saw more of moral and material progress take place than ever had taken place in a like period in the ages gone by; he saw civil and religious liberty move up higher and higher, and he died full of years spent in good deeds for man and country, and conscious that he had patriotically done his whole duty. The world is better because BENJAMIN F. MARSH lived.

His life may be summed up as that of a typical soldier in the time of his country's need, of a faithful and capable statesman and legislator in the nation's council, and, above all, that of an exemplary citizen of a free Republic.

Let the sound of those he wrought for  
And the feet of those he fought for  
Echo 'round his bones for evermore.

## ADDRESS OF MR. PRINCE, OF ILLINOIS.

MR. SPEAKER: On this beautiful and hallowed Easter Day, which means so much to the world, we have gathered to pay our respects to the life, character, and public services of B. F. MARSH, late a Member of this House from the Commonwealth of Illinois. It seems to me that no words can be said better than what he said of himself. With his own hand he penned the following with reference to his own life:

BENJAMIN F. MARSH, Republican, of Warsaw, Hancock County, was born in Wythe Township, in said county, and reared on his father's farm; was educated in private schools until 14 years old, when he was sent to Jubilee College and entered upon a classical course, pursuing the same for four years, lacking one year of graduation; entered the law office of his brother, Judge J. W. Marsh, at Warsaw, and was admitted to the bar in 1860; same year was a candidate on the Republican ticket for the office of State's attorney in the district then composed of Hancock and Adams counties; the district being Democratic he was defeated by the late Calvin A. Warren, one of the best lawyers in western Illinois; under Mr. Lincoln's first call for volunteers, in 1861, he enrolled a company of cavalry and went to Springfield and tendered the same for and during the war of the rebellion to Governor Yates, but as cavalry was not included in the call the company was not then accepted; on his way home he enlisted as a private in the Sixteenth Illinois Infantry Volunteers, then at Quincy, and served in said regiment in northern Missouri until, on the 4th day of July, 1861, while at Monroe Station, he received a telegram from Governor Yates accepting his cavalry company; immediately going home, he in a few days recruited a company of Cavalry, was commissioned captain, and assigned to the Second Regiment Illinois Cavalry; he was finally commissioned colonel of this regiment and served continuously until January, 1866, having campaigned in every seceding State except Virginia and the two Carolinas; he received four gunshot wounds and carries in his body rebel lead; returning to Warsaw, he resumed the practice of law until 1877; in 1869 he was the Republican candidate for the constitutional convention; in 1876 he was elected to the Forty-fifth Congress from the then Tenth district and was reelected to the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Congresses; in 1882 he was again a candidate for Congress, but was defeated; returning home in 1883, at the expiration of his term in

Congress, he engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is still so engaged; in the spring of 1889 he was appointed by Governor Oglesby railroad and warehouse commissioner, and held the same for four years; he was a delegate to the Republican national convention in 1888; was elected to the Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, and Fifty-sixth Congresses from the Fifteenth district, and elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress from the new Fourteenth district, receiving 19,404 votes, to 13,195 for J. W. Lush, Democrat; 1,118 for R. F. Kindler, Socialist, and 988 for P. M. Carrishon, Prohibitionist.

A remarkable record of a remarkable man. As a former Speaker of this House, and now one of its honored Members, has said to us this day that he entered this House with the late Mr. MARSH in the Forty-fifth Congress, and served with him and watched his course, and paid a high tribute of respect to him, so can we of a shorter period of service say likewise of him that he was a distinguished Member of this House in the Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh, Fifty-eighth, and Fifty-ninth Congresses.

I have just looked at the list of members in the Senate and in the House from the great Commonwealth of Illinois in the present Congress. I find that there is but one member of that body, consisting of two Senators and twenty-five Members, that, like the late Mr. MARSH, served his country from 1861 to 1865. This in itself is indicative of the changes that have come over this body and over this country since Colonel MARSH first became a Member of this House, and the changes that have come over the country since he became a Member of the House after the great civil war from 1861 to 1865. Think of it, my countrymen! The State of Illinois, that gave to the country the two central figures of the last century, that gave to the country and to the world the typical volunteer soldier of the age in which he lived—the great John A. Logan—is to-day represented in this great body by but one of the distinguished men who served with that distinguished group of men from 1861 to 1865.

It shows that this, like other bodies, is a passing one. It shows that the splendid men who stood for something and performed those heroic deeds from 1861 to 1865 are gradually being gathered to the fathers and have gone to the other side. Other and younger men have taken their places. The great trust that they so well discharged, and that they handed to us, has been given for us to carry out and to see that that for which they wrought, that that for which they labored, shall be maintained and perpetuated and handed to others in the same manner that we received it from them.

Colonel MARSH was a man that was loved by his fellow-men. It is my privilege now to represent two of the counties that he long represented in Congress. I have met face to face and have talked heart to heart with many of the old comrades in Schnyler and in Adams counties who served with Colonel MARSH from 1861 to 1865, who knew him intimately and closely, and I say to my colleagues here and to the country that each and all of them loved and respected their comrade. He was their friend and he loved them and they loved him—a strong, forcible character.

It was my privilege to be at his home on the banks of the Mississippi when, in the month of June, we laid him away in his little home cemetery.

I saw the concourse of his neighbors and friends as they came there to pay their last tribute of respect to their neighbor and their friend. As the last sad rites of the church had been said over him there stepped forth at the open grave a man and a comrade of his. He said: "By direction of the deceased and at his request I want to sound 'taps' over my comrade." This promise was made by Mr. Lemuel Wiley, an officer of this House, to the deceased, as the two comrades talked together in the New Willard Hotel, and he made a trip of nearly 100 miles



to carry out that promise that he had made to his deceased comrade and friend. As those "taps" sounded there that afternoon, so familiar to the soldier, there was not a dry eye at that burial spot. That was the token of respect and tribute of a common soldier to an officer of the grand volunteer forces of this country. To me it was one of the highest tributes that it was possible for one man to have paid to another.

The more, Mr. Speaker, I travel about and meet my countrymen, the more thoroughly I am impressed with the greatness of our country and its people. Coming from the lowly walks of life, born in a country village along the banks of the Mississippi, mingling as an ordinary country boy among his associates, there came up a man by years of growth to occupy a high and distinguished position in the Army of his country; there came up a man to occupy a high and distinguished position on the floor of the greatest parliamentary body on the face of the earth; and yet, during all that growth from lowly, humble life to the high station that he occupied, the hand and heart was ever grasping out and reaching toward his fellow-men who were moving along in the ordinary affairs of life. What other country can present such a spectacle? What other country is there that has within its limits men of that kind and character, ever sympathizing with the efforts of their fellow-men, as does this Republic of ours?

I saw here just a few moments ago a former distinguished Member of this House, Gen. T. J. Henderson, who served with Colonel MARSH on the floor of this House, and who, like him, has come up from the body of the people; and so, Mr. Speaker, can I say the same of you, Gen. J. Warren Keifer. Of you, and men like you, our country should feel proud. You have made it what it is. But for what men like Colonel MARSH, General Henderson, and you and your comrades did from 1861 to 1865

we would have no country to-day worthy of consideration among the nations of the earth. It is therefore well and proper on occasions of this kind to pay the respect that is due the men who preserved this Union, and whose lives and efforts from 1861 to 1865 gave to us, my colleagues—younger by far than those men—the opportunity we have to sit here with our colleagues from the South as a reunited, happy, prosperous people, living under one flag, under one Government, managed, upheld, and controlled by officers of one Government, passing the laws that we do and being in full accord under the Constitution and laws of our country.

I can say no more, and ought not. I wish to pay my personal testimonial of respect to the memory of the deceased, who was a strong, forceful character, loyally devoted to his country in peace and in war, and who worked and wrought to the uplifting of mankind; and there, on the banks of the Mississippi, near by the waters of that great river, sleeps that great warrior, awaiting the call of the Father, when he, like many others, will join his comrades gone before, and at that great reveille join the great commander, Lincoln, and around him those other comrades who wrought the great work in this great country of ours—Grant and Sherman, and Sheridan and Meade, and the lesser lights—and there in that great assembly of splendid men will be found the strong, stalwart figure of BENJAMIN F. MARSH.

**ADDRESS OF MR. RODENBERG, OF ILLINOIS.**

MR. SPEAKER: The State of Illinois has added many illustrious names to our country's heritage of great and noble men. In the storm and stress of war and in the calm of peace, in the sunshine of prosperity and in the shadows of adversity, in all of the vicissitudes of our national life Illinois has never failed to discharge the full measure of her duty and devotion to the Republic.

To-day we have met to pay a tribute of love and respect to the memory of one of her most distinguished sons, a brave, manly, and courageous man who, in his day and generation, did his full part toward giving Illinois her proud place in the sisterhood of States.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MARSH was a native of Illinois, and belonged to that splendid school of statesmen and soldiers which included Lincoln, Grant, Logan, Oglesby, and Palmer, a school which made patriotism its watchword and duty its guiding star. Theirs was the genius that had its origin in the loftiest ideals of American citizenship and drew its holiest inspiration from the immortal principles of liberty and equality upon which the magnificent structure of this mighty Government has been reared. They believed implicitly in their country, in its hopes, its aspirations, its purposes, and its destiny. As the clouds gathered and the gloom thickened their faith only grew the stronger. Civilization owes them a debt of gratitude which time can not efface and posterity can never hope to repay. They have bequeathed to us the priceless legacy of liberty under the law, and, catching the spirit that breathes upon us from their hallowed memories, we should pledge ourselves

anew to maintain this sacred heritage in all its purity, in all its strength, and in all its glory.

To me Colonel MARSH was the highest and purest type of the ideal citizen soldier. There was something in his strong and rugged personality that seemed to form a link between the present and the heroic past. The martial spirit was ever with him. He was part Roman, part Spartan, and all American. One could easily imagine him riding at the head of his regiment with drawn sword that caught its brightness from the "princely gleaming of his soul" into the thickest of the fray and into the very jaws of death. He was the living impersonation of the highest moral and physical courage, the embodiment of personal honor and personal bravery. Conscious of the righteousness of his cause, influenced only by patriotic considerations of duty, we who know him well can readily believe that he would have willingly sacrificed his life in defense of the principles for which he contended.

During the Fifty-sixth and Fifty-eighth Congresses it was my good fortune to become intimately acquainted with Colonel MARSH, and the closer our acquaintance the greater my admiration for his many excellent qualities of head and heart. When in a reminiscent mood no man was more interesting or entertaining. At such times he displayed a marvelous and comprehensive knowledge of political history, and his keen analysis of men and measures was as instructive as his philosophy was profound. Always an intense partisan, with an abiding faith in the truth and justice of his party's principles, he adopted as his rule of political conduct the dictum, "He serves his country best who serves his party best." And yet, notwithstanding this intense loyalty to his party's decrees, he never failed to show the most tolerant and respectful consideration for those who suffered with him.

Beneath the gruff exterior there was a knightly heart of purest gold full of tender sympathy and Christian charity. He believed in the cardinal virtues, and manifested this belief in his daily intercourse with his fellow-men.

For sixteen years he represented a constituency in this Chamber, and this long service is in itself an eloquent tribute to his personal worth and an evidence of his hold on the confidence and affection of the people who knew him best. Endowed by nature with an intellect keen, discriminating, and alert, always conscientious and painstaking in the discharge of his public duties, no Member rendered more faithful and efficient service to his constituency than our departed friend. We who served with him will miss his wise counsel and valuable advice. We mourn his death because we loved him, and our sorrow is intensified by a realization of the melancholy fact that he was the last of that splendid galaxy of intrepid heroes, born of the heat and strife and blood of the great civil conflict to serve the people of the State of Illinois in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, one by one the men who helped to preserve the perpetuity of our country and its sacred institutions are joining that innumerable caravan that is marching in unbroken phalanx past the Great Captain for final review. In the beautiful cemetery of the picturesque little city of Warsaw, nestling gently among the mute, majestic hills, at whose feet forever roll the murmuring waters of the mighty Mississippi, amid the happy scenes of his youth, beside the faithful companion of his long and eventful life, our friend is sleeping the sleep of eternity. Slowly and sadly we consign his mortal remains to the cheerless grave, and as the sods moistened by our tears close in above them we call and listen. From the voiceless tomb there comes no answer. Only an echo which seems to

mock our sorrow is wafted back. The somber shadows thicken. All is dark. We are overwhelmed in doubt. But suddenly the mystic veil which separates the present from the hereafter is swept aside. A light breaks forth. It is the light of the spirit of immortality, triumphant still, shedding joy and peace and hope eternal. In yon windowed palace of heaven we see this grand old patriot of ours crowned with a wreath of immortal glory, and among the myriad thousands who take part in the coronation we behold again the countless legions that offered up their lives on the altar of their country that "government of the people, by the people, and for the people might not perish from the earth."

Mr. Speaker, on this sacred Easter Sabbath day, while all the world is commemorating the resurrection of the crucified Christ, our thoughts wander back to the newly decorated grave in the little cemetery at Warsaw that contains all that is mortal of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MARSH. To-day we remember again in "what a forge and what a heat" was shaped the nobility of that gallant, intrepid soul, and as we read anew the inspiring story of his self-sacrificing devotion to the highest ideals of his country, with one accord we unite in the sentiment so beautifully expressed by the poet:

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,  
 Dear as the blood ye gave;  
 No impious footsteps here shall tread  
 The herbage of your grave.  
 Nor shall your glory be forgot  
 While Fame her record keeps,  
 And honor points the hallowed spot  
 Where Valor proudly sleeps.  
 Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter's blight,  
 Nor Time's remorseless doom  
 Shall dim one ray of glory's light  
 That gilds your deathless tomb.

**ADDRESS OF MR. FULLER, OF ILLINOIS.**

MR. SPEAKER: Without feeling that I can add anything of importance to what has been said to-day, or what will be said by others upon this sorrowful occasion, yet I can not let the opportunity pass without paying my tribute of respect briefly to our friend the late Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, who was in his lifetime one of Illinois's grand old men, who are so fast passing away from the scenes of life or from active participation in the affairs of the world.

He belonged to an age of great men, of men who became famous, who made Illinois great in song and in story; Illinois, the home of Abraham Lincoln, the great war President, and of Ulysses S. Grant, of John A. Logan, of Richard J. Oglesby, of Thomas J. Henderson, of Stephen A. Hurlbut, who all became famous during that period of the civil war as patriots in war, and afterwards as great statesmen, serving their country with equally as great ability in civil life as they had served it in military life.

Not without thy wondrous story,  
Illinois, Illinois!  
Could he writ the nation's glory,  
Illinois, Illinois!

What wonder we of Illinois are proud of that great State and of the great leaders she has given to the nation.

BENJAMIN F. MARSH was a friend and associate of Lincoln, and of Logan, and Oglesby, and the other great leaders of that time. With them he was endowed with a patriotic enthusiasm. He was what you might call an enthusiastic patriot, who believed in his country and in its flag. He believed that his country was right, and even if his personal opinion happened

to be different from the position taken by his country, he was willing yet to concede that the great majority was right and that his country must be right upon all great questions. He believed that it was and he saw it grow into the greatest country on the face of the earth.

Reared upon the broad prairies of Illinois, coming to full manhood just as the great civil war broke out, when Illinois sent to the front more than 250,000 men to fight the battles of their country, he saw that war through to its conclusion and then he saw all the great events that have occurred in this country from that time down to less than a year ago, events never equaled before in the history of the world or of any other country or of any other land.

He was proud of his country; he was proud of its achievements, and he might well be, and he was enthusiastically for his country, first, last, and all the time.

When such a man passes from among us and from the scenes of earthly life, it brings us to the realization of the importance of doing while we may. He was a man who believed in doing things. He believed in action. That was one reason why he belonged to the Republican party, because that was a party that did things. It was the party that appealed to him. He had no use for a man who places over his mantle the skull and crossbones and writes underneath, "What is the use?" because he believed if we all took that position, advance would be impossible, and the great achievements of this country would never have occurred. He believed in action and in doing things well while we may. Up to the day of his death he was found as actively interested in all the great questions coming before this Government as any other man in public life.

I remember a little over a year ago of hearing him talk upon the subject of the United States Navy. While he was a man of



peace, as gentle, as kindly as the immortal Lincoln, whom he loved and after whom he patterned, yet he believed that the great safeguard of human liberty and of maintaining the country's greatness and power was in time of peace to be prepared for war. Therefore he was an enthusiastic advocate of a greater navy, because he thought he saw therein the future safety of the Government.

He has gone from among us, Mr. Speaker, and no man who ever occupied a seat upon the floor of this House with him but what mourns his loss. We in Illinois, who knew him better, who knew him during all the years of his active life, mourn necessarily more than others, because we knew him better. We knew him as he was at home—a pleasant, kindly, agreeable neighbor and friend, and as an honest man, the noblest work of God. A man who never intentionally did a wrong thing in his life, and who would not for any consideration on earth.

I contend, Mr. Speaker, there are great men in the world yet, there are honest men in the world yet, but there never was one more thoroughly honest and honorable in all things than Col. BENJAMIN F. MARSH.

As one by one the members of the old guard pass out of this life we are reminded of what a host of great names, names that will live in history, in song, and in story as long as time shall last, were developed and became known because of the great civil conflict between the States, and the acts done by these men during that conflict and because of that conflict, and the great questions following in the settlement and adjustment of the affairs of the nation, for which they had risked their lives on the fields of carnage. The names of these heroes of the civil war will ever be dear to every patriotic man and woman in the land we love and for which they fought.

Colonel MARSH did his full share in that conflict, and since and up to the date of his death did his full share as a patriotic American citizen, whether in public office or private life. He is gone to the home provided for all those who love and serve their God and their country and who believe in their fellow-man. It has been said that Colonel MARSH did not believe in reformers. He did not, if by reformers is meant the breed of persons who see no good, and nothing but evil, in their fellow-men—those who pretend to believe that every man in public life is a thief and a scoundrel, and who advocate replacing them by men of their own kind; that is, they would reform everything on earth if the dear, good people would only let them have all the offices. But somehow or other the good, common-sense people of this great country have generally been too wise to trust that kind of men with the governing power of the country. I think they will not soon do so. I believe there are more good people than bad people in the world. I even believe there are more honest people than dishonest ones in public office to-day.

In fact, when you come to think of it, there is much truth in the saying that—

There is so much bad in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us, that it behooves all of us to be fairly charitable toward the rest of us.

I insist here and now that with all his positive convictions, all of his party fidelity, Colonel MARSH was a strictly, a ruggedly honest man in every relation of life, and that thousands of others in public life to-day are as honest, as patriotic, as unselfish, as devoted to their country as he was.

This bright Easter Sunday we are reminded that the time will surely come to each and every one of us, as it came to Colonel MARSH, when we shall reach that dark flowing river of

death, which we must all cross, and the farther side of which no man living has ever yet seen. When we reach its bank we can not stop; we must go on; we must cross to the farther shore. I think in our hearts we all believe we shall there meet our friends who have gone before. I think it was Whittier who said:

Alas for him who never sees  
The stars shine through his cypress trees,  
Who hopeless lays his dead away,  
Nor looks to see the breaking day  
Across the mournful marbles play;  
Who hath not learned in times of faith  
The truth, to sense and flesh unknown,  
That life is ever lord of death,  
And love can never lose its own.

And again:

For love will hope and faith will trust  
That somehow, somewhere, meet we must.

I believe we shall meet him again on some other shore, in some fairer land, where we shall all know each other better, where all the animosities of life here will be impossible, and where a wider and truer and better existence will be possible to all, at least who deserve it or have proven themselves worthy of it.

We mourn for our friend who has gone. Perhaps if we knew more we should not mourn. It is only the farewell, the eternal farewell, that hurts. To him we must bid that eternal good-by, hoping to meet him again. And in the sorrow of our hearts we say, "Peace to his ashes, rest to his soul."

## ADDRESS OF MR. WILEY, OF ALABAMA.

MR. SPEAKER: A sentiment of sincere sorrow pervades this Hall to-day, in the death of this worthy man. His labors with us have ended. He fell at his post, ripe in years and full of honors. "After life's fitful fever he sleeps well." In a lonely grave in the far-distant West his body calmly slumbers. Upon his tomb the evening shades may fall heavily, "with night dews, cold and damp," but over it, too, the sunset will glow with purple and red, and the fleecy clouds roll by. Far above it will still shine the brilliant stars of heaven. While the seasons come and go, on this Easter morn we cherish his memory and will keep in bloom the fragrant flowers of deeds well done—of a career useful, honorable, and enduring.

It is an old Talmudic proverb that "when a good man dies, it is the earth that loses. The lost jewel will always be a jewel, but he who has lost it has just cause to weep." We mourn his death, but it is a consolation to remember that his life is a rich mine from which the humblest actor can gather wealth. In business he was diligent and successful. In every earthly relation, wherever his lot was cast, he sought to do his duty as he saw it, with the approval of a good conscience. In his breast burned the holy fires of patriotism.

In the storm of that fearful, fratricidal strife between the States he wore the blue. He fought his way from a private in the ranks to the command of a regiment in the field. No shame or disgrace ever stained his sword. His body, bearing the scars of four grievous gunshot wounds received in "battle's stern array," was a living witness to his loyalty and superb devotion to the "Star-Spangled Banner." He shed his blood

for the cause he believed to be right. Gentle in reverence, loyal in honor, simple in faith, self-poised, chivalric, disdain-ing appearances, of stern honesty and unimpeachable integrity, possessing varied attainments and extensive learning, considerate, conscientious, resourceful, with an aptitude for detail and a genius for hard work, yet withal a strong partisan, it was manifest that he had endowments which removed him from the sphere of the ordinary, which took him outside the pale of the commonplace and prosaic. His conduct at all times was such as to command respect and win admiration. As a logical sequence he was elected a Member of this Chamber, which has been described to be the greatest legislative body on the face of the globe.

Alabama's senior Senator, in alluding to the vast volume of enactments by Congress, not only directly affecting the welfare of eighty-five millions of people, but influencing the councils of kingdoms and determining the fate of empires, has declared:

The House of Representatives of the people is not less powerful than the greatest tribunals that have ever assembled. The scope and majestic sovereignty of this power is beyond description in words, or by any reference to other systems of government.

The confidence and esteem of his neighbors and friends—of the constituency he loved and honored, and who, in turn, loved and honored him—attested their appreciation of the efficient manner in which he discharged his Congressional duties, numerous, varied, and exacting. There was nothing negative in his nature. His locality could always be ascertained. Dignified in bearing, of sound practical sense, having his own individual, independent, and uncompromising methods of thought, of liberal views, and public spirit, he was in every respect eminently qualified for the lofty trust he so long and ably filled as a Representative in the lower House of Congress.

From a character so exemplary the young men of our country can find inspiration and take renewed encouragement.

From his labors here he has been called away for rest and recreation. We do not believe, to quote the graphic words of the immortal Shakespeare, that he has gone to a "blind cave of eternal night." The spark of a noble life flickered a little while, and then went out. The lute is silent. The chords made of his heartstrings are broken. While with us all the "sense of death is most in apprehension," as the poet has aptly expressed it, we feel justified in indulging the buoyant hope that he has been translated to a brighter and better home beyond the grave, where the air is filled with solemn, entrancing music, and the sky is aglow with the splendor of sunlight and perpetual spring; where the rumbling waters are dashed with the fragrance of rare and beautiful flowers, and the garlands woven from the lilies of the valley, are forever white and green.

Let him rest and sleep and dream! Upon the marble slab which crowns the mound where his remains lie buried we place with tender hands "clusters of beauty whom none can debar," the choicest roses culled from the garden of love, "white as the robe of a sinless one and sweeter than Araby's winds that blow"—the last and purest token affection can offer to our departed friend and brother.

**ADDRESS OF MR. MADDEN, OF ILLINOIS.**

MR. SPEAKER: I come to pay a brief tribute to the memory of a man whom I loved. BENJAMIN F. MARSH was my friend; between us a warm personal friendship had existed for years. I knew his temperament and he knew my temperament. Our esteem for each other was deep and sincere. The announcement of his death was to me a terrible blow.

I do not propose to speak at any length of his Congressional attainments or of the many salutary measures he helped to enact into law. Those of you who served with him here in this House can best testify to his worth and greatness as a legislator. It is to his splendid character, his noble manhood, and his loving disposition that I wish to address myself.

BENJAMIN F. MARSH was not one of those men with whom an easy acquaintance and lasting friendship could be secured at first meeting. He did not impress favorably most of his acquaintances at first appearance. His stern features rendered him liable to the imputation of indifference to friendly offices, and yet it was but the appearance of coldness. No man with whom I have ever had an intimate acquaintance possessed to a greater degree those traits of friendship and generosity which make the lives of some men so peculiarly sweet and beautiful.

No constituency was represented in Congress by a more conscientious man than BEN MARSH. Of this I am absolutely certain, although I did not have the pleasure of serving with him. He was constant, industrious, and painstaking. He was an effective worker. He had the confidence of his associates. He never flinched from disagreeable duties. He was intensely patriotic. His love for his country could not be estimated.

He was broad in his conceptions and firm in his convictions. He was magnetic. He was chivalrous. He was courteous. Truth, love, courage, and intelligence were indelibly stamped upon his strong but lovable face. Aside from all this, he was gallant. No one ever doubted his sincerity and courage.

Colonel MARSH was born on a farm in Hancock County, Ill. He received his early education in the public schools of that neighborhood. He subsequently studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1860. He served continuously in the war of the rebellion from 1861 to 1865, and gained great distinction for bravery on the field of battle. From 1866 to 1877 he resumed the practice of law. He was elected to the Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, Fifty-eighth, and Fifty-ninth Congresses.

I am told by his associates here that he made an ideal Congressman; that he did not attempt by much speechmaking to sway the minds of his hearers, but that he possessed to a prominent degree the art of presenting in conversation his ideas in such logical manner as to show that he was richly endowed with those faculties without which his success could not have been so pronounced.

He was no diplomat. If he could not win by hard knocks delivered straight from the shoulder, he was willing to lose. He never fouled his enemy, nor did he believe in compromise. He believed in just and beneficent legislation, but once lending his support to a measure he believed to be right, he would not willingly tolerate amendment.

He was a man of action. He was bold, fearless, sincere, and honest. He was beloved as a friend and feared as an enemy.

In private life he was cordial, affable, genial, hospitable, sympathetic, and agreeable. That he was always clear and always true can be testified to by hundreds of Illinoisans who



have gone to him for advice and aid in times of trouble. His heart was as kind and sympathetic as ever beat in human bosom. It was impossible for him to say no when appealed to for assistance by worthy ones in need.

In his death this House has lost one of its foremost Members and Illinois one of its purest and best men.

Life! I know not what thou art,  
But this I know, that thou and I must part;  
And when or where or how we met,  
I own to me's a secret yet.

Life! we've been long together,  
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;  
'Tis hard to part when friends are dear;  
Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;

Then steal away, give little warning;  
Choose thine own time;  
Say not "Good night;" but in some brighter clime  
Bid me "Good morning."



## PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

DECEMBER 5, 1905.

### DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN F. MARSH.

Mr. HOPKINS. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to submit to the Senate the action of the House relative to the death of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions indicated by the Senator from Illinois, which will be read.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*December 4, 1905.*

*Resolved,* That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House be directed to transmit this resolution to the Senate, and a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. HOPKINS. Mr. President, I submit resolutions and ask for their present consideration.

The resolutions were read; and by unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to their consideration, as follows:

*Resolved,* That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved,* That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions submitted by the Senator from Illinois.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and in accordance with the second resolution (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Wednesday, December 6, 1905, at 12 o'clock meridian.

APRIL 16, 1906.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

The message announced that the House had passed resolutions commemorative of the life and public services of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES.

FEBRUARY 8, 1907.

MR. CULLOM. I desire to give notice that to-morrow at 4 o'clock I shall call up the resolutions of the House commemorative of the life, character, and public services of Gen. B. F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois, which are now upon the table.

FEBRUARY 9, 1907.

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MR. CULLOM. Mr. President, I ask that the resolutions from the House of Representatives in commemoration of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois, be laid before the Senate.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions referred to by the Senator from Illinois, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*April 15, 1906.*

*Resolved,* That in pursuance of the special order heretofore adopted, the House now proceed to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Member of this House from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved,* That as a special mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of the exercises to-day, shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved,* That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved,* That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE SENATE.

MR. CULLOM. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Illinois will be read:

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the business of the Senate be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. BENJAMIN F. MARSH, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives; and

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to communicate a copy of the resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to.

ADDRESS OF MR. CULLOM, OF ILLINOIS.

MR. PRESIDENT: I ask the indulgence of the Senate that I may say a few words of tribute and respect to the memory of my friend, the late BENJAMIN F. MARSH, who served for sixteen years as a Representative in Congress.

I knew General MARSH intimately for more than forty years and always had great admiration for him as a citizen, as a soldier, as a Member of the House. He was a brave, strong, sturdy character, of the type of the early pioneers, almost all of whom have passed away.

Unlike most of the noted men of our State, he was a native son of Illinois, having been born in Hancock County in 1835. From his early manhood until his death he had a more or less prominent part in the public affairs of the State. Like many of the great men in our history he was reared on the farm, but his father was a man of means for those days and was able to give his son the luxury of a liberal college education.

On leaving college he chose the law as his profession and was admitted to the bar in 1860, just when the nation was about to be torn in twain by the greatest civil war of all history.

As he was entering his career as a lawyer, President Lincoln issued his first call for volunteers, and young MARSH was one of the earliest to respond. Failing to secure the acceptance of a company of cavalry which he had raised, he enlisted as a private in the Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, with which regiment he served in Missouri. Later his company of cavalry was accepted, and he was made its captain. It formed a part of that very distinguished cavalry regiment, the Second Illinois. He was afterwards promoted, step by step, until he was finally

made colonel of his regiment, in which position he remained until the end of the war.

He did not receive his promotions as a result of favoritism or political influence. Every promotion which he received was for gallantry on the field of battle. The Second Illinois Cavalry saw active service in different parts of the country and participated in some of the greatest battles of the war and in countless minor engagements.

General MARSH'S record as a soldier was a brilliant one. His bravery and heroism were never questioned. He served from the beginning to the end of the war, and his military record is one of the most precious heritages which he could leave to his children.

For ten years after the close of the war he practiced his profession. He was a successful lawyer of far more than the average legal ability. Naturally he took an interest in public affairs, and was for many years one of the leading men in his section of the State.

He was a Republican always. He witnessed the very beginning of the Republican party, in 1856, and from that time until his death he never for a moment wavered in his intense loyalty and devotion to his party. He advocated its principles on the platform, and as a speaker he was earnest, forceful, and effective.

General MARSH during the later years of his life manifested a specially great admiration and devotion for two great men of Illinois—one, the present distinguished Speaker of the House, and the other, the late governor and Senator, Richard J. Oglesby. He was appointed by Governor Oglesby as a member of the railroad and warehouse commission of Illinois, one of the most important places in the State administration, and, needless to say, he filled it with credit and distinction.

Aside from his record as a soldier, General MARSH will be



remembered as a distinguished Member of Congress, where he served for sixteen years.

He was elected first in 1877, and was twice reelected, retired in 1883, and ten years later was again elected and served until 1901, when he was defeated by a small majority. His district was normally Democratic, and I doubt very much whether any Republican could have been elected. A new apportionment of the State having been made, he was elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress and reelected as a Member of the Fifty-ninth Congress.

General MARSH was a very useful Member of Congress, attending punctually to his public duties, always having in mind the interest and welfare of his country, which he loved and had served so well.

He was a prominent member of the Military Committee and chairman of the Committee on the Militia, and took an active part in framing all of the important legislation coming from those two committees.

It was a great satisfaction and a matter of pride with him that he was a Member of Congress during the Spanish-American war. He was one of the earliest sympathizers with Cuba. His feelings were wrought up to the highest pitch on account of the inhuman treatment of the Cubans; he believed that war alone would bring about their freedom, and he was one of the most earnest advocates in Congress of the war with Spain. He was never more earnest, never more the personification of the brave soldier that he was, than during this period in his advocacy on the floor of the House of a declaration of war. He chafed under the months of seeming hesitancy and delay on the part of the late President McKinley. An aggressive man himself, his sympathetic nature thoroughly aroused, General MARSH did not try to conceal his impatience.

When war was finally declared, I believe, had his age and health permitted, he would have enlisted himself and gone to the front, where he would have probably been given an important command and would have been a distinguished hero of two wars.

He witnessed with patriotic delight the success of our arms on land and sea, was in thorough sympathy with the treaty of Paris, realizing its important results, and later saw with pride our country taking one of the foremost places among the nations of the earth. He believed in the doctrine of expansion, was not afraid to take up the white man's burden, and had supreme faith in the great future destiny of the Republic.

General MARSH at the time of his death occupied an important position in the House; and, although a very aggressive man, having strong convictions and not hesitating on any occasion to give expression to them, he enjoyed in the highest degree the respect and esteem of his colleagues. He passed away at his home in Warsaw, where he was born and where all of his life was spent, an honored member of Congress and one of the foremost public men of his State.

ADDRESS OF MR. HOPKINS, OF ILLINOIS.

MR. PRESIDENT: COL. BENJAMIN F. MARSH is a great figure in the history of Illinois. He was born in Hancock County, that State, in 1835. Chicago was then a straggling village of only a few thousand inhabitants and the northern half of the State of Illinois was largely unoccupied prairie.

His father, who was one of the prominent men of his section of the State, owned a beautiful place in Hancock County—the same that was owned and occupied by Colonel MARSH at the time of his death. It was here that his early boyhood was passed, and under the environments of the pioneer life of that day his character was molded and developed.

Fortunately for him, his father's financial condition was such as to enable him to give Colonel MARSH a liberal education. Under the direction of the famous Bishop Chase he took a four-year course at a small college in Illinois. It did not have the educational advantages of a Yale or a Harvard, but in Bishop Chase he found a noble character, whose influence in the personal relations that existed between student and instructor brought out the finest traits of character in Colonel MARSH.

Bishop Chase rendered a work in the then outskirts of American civilization that should make his name immortal. His life and great talents were devoted to the education of the young men and women of the then great West.

Among the splendid men who justified the sacrifices that he made in the cause of education not one made a better record than did Col. BENJAMIN F. MARSH. After he had

finished his academic course he commenced the study of law in Warsaw, Hancock County, and in due time was admitted to the bar and became a partner of his elder brother in the practice of the law.

Illinois has an exceptionally proud record as respects the bench and bar of the State. Judges Breese, Caton, and Scofield, on the State bench, and Drummond and Blodgett in our Federal courts in the State, will rank with any of the great judges of any other State in the Republic or with any of the distinguished Federal judges whose records have enriched the pages of the judicial history of our country.

At the bar in Illinois we have had some of the most brilliant men that have practiced in any courts in this country or in England. Stephen T. Logan, Browning, Lincoln, Colonel Ingersoll, Leonard Swett, and the celebrated E. D. Baker were lawyers who would rank with the bar of any State, and among this number were lawyers and advocates who would rank with any of the leaders of the English bar.

It was under the inspiration and influence of such names as I have mentioned that Col. BENJAMIN F. MARSH commenced the practice of law in the little town of Warsaw, Ill. He gave promise of a great future at the bar, but before he had been long in the practice of his profession dark clouds of civil strife overshadowed our national horizon, and when President Lincoln called for men to defend the flag and the Constitution of our common country Colonel MARSH was one of the first to respond. He went to the front as captain of Company G, Second Illinois Cavalry. At the close of the war he returned as colonel of that regiment.

This brief statement of his several promotions is enough to show the brave and fearless soldier that he was. The Second Illinois Cavalry has a proud record. Colonel MARSH, as com-

mander of the regiment, did his full share in making that one of the first cavalry regiments in the Federal service during the civil war.

My personal acquaintance with Colonel MARSH commenced many years ago at one of our State Republican conventions. I knew of him as having been a Member of Congress for a number of years, and at the time of my personal acquaintance he was serving as one of the railroad and warehouse commissioners of the State under a commission issued to him by Governor Oglesby, of that State. He presented to me a man of strong personality. He was over 6 feet in height, and straight and soldierly in his appearance, with keen and piercing eyes. He would attract attention anywhere. Our homes were separated by several hundred miles. We met only on rare occasions until we both became Members of the Fifty-fourth Congress. I served with him in that Congress, in the Fifty-fifth, and Fifty-sixth. During this service I learned to know him well and to appreciate the manly qualities of head and heart that he possessed. There was no Member of our delegation who was more thoughtful of his constituents and more earnest in his efforts to serve their many demands made upon his time and strength. It was a pleasure to me to see and hear him in a running debate in the House, especially in the consideration of questions that grew out of the civil war. He was an excellent debater, keen and incisive and direct in his utterances. He presented what he had to say with a force and fire that you would hardly expect in one of his years.

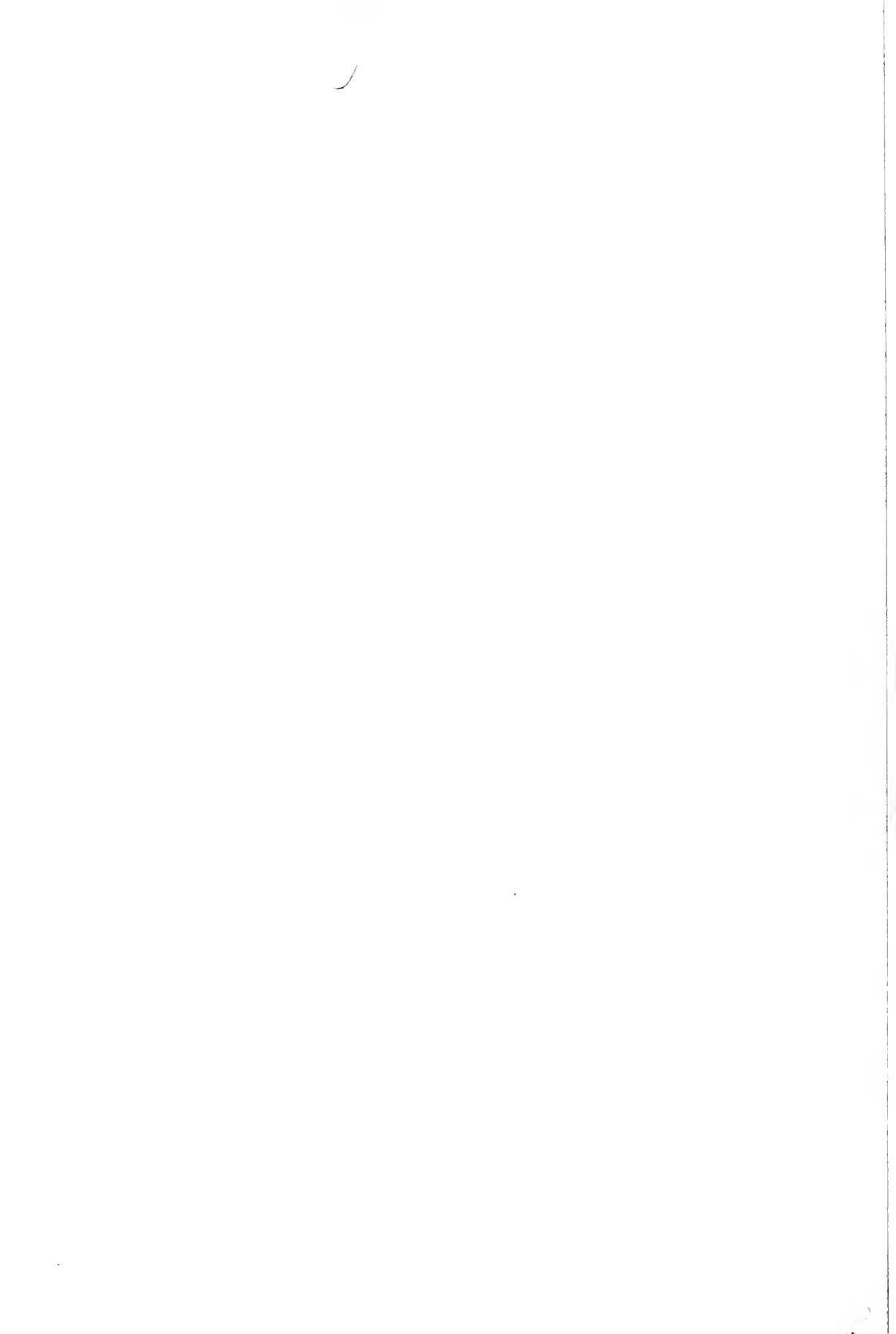
His personal relations with the Members of his own delegation were always of the most kindly character; and what is true of them is true of the membership of the several Houses of Representatives in which he served. He was a strong partisan, and on all political questions was radical in his utterances; but

he was always a fair fighter and always commanded the respect and admiration of his opponents.

Colonel MARSH was popular with both Democrats and Republicans during his entire service in the House of Representatives. His death was not only deplored by the constituency that had honored him so many times, but by the people of the State of Illinois. We are proud of the record he made and proud of the service that he rendered his State and his country.





















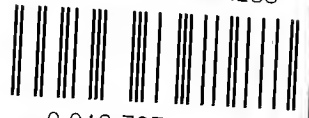








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